

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

The Patent Examiner has stated that claim 73 is directed to a nonelected invention. Thus, this claim has been withdrawn from further consideration.

In this Office Action, claims 63-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ikeda et al EP 0215 987*.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Patent Examiner has allowed claims 47, 50, 53, 61-62, 67-68 and 70-72.

Therefore, the amendments to this Patent Application are to cancel the finally rejected claims 63 to 66, and to cancel claim 73, which was withdrawn from further consideration by the Patent Examiner.

Hence, the only claims remaining in this Patent

Application are allowed claims 47, 50, 53, 61-62, 67-68 and 70-72.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 over *Ikeda et al* has now been overcome. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments, it is firmly believed the present patent application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt Notification of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 8, 2004.



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